

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JULY 24, 2018**

ITEM 2

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (U.S. EPA) TO CONTINUE CONTAMINANT SOURCE INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

DISCUSSION

Since the 1980s, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Regional Water Board) staff have been investigating sources of groundwater contamination in the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin (San Fernando Basin). The San Fernando Basin has been impacted with chemicals such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), heavy metals including hexavalent chromium, and chemicals of emerging concern such as 1,4-dioxane, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, N-nitrododimethylamine (NDMA) and perchlorate. To date, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, with the support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the cities of Burbank and Glendale, have identified hundreds of sites in the San Fernando Basin that are impacted. Numerous orders requiring technical reports, inspections, soil and groundwater assessments, and cleanups have been issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Board. The primary role of the Los Angeles Regional Water Board as a regulatory agency in the San Fernando Valley Superfund area has been to identify sources of contamination, assess, and clean up source sites while the U.S. EPA, water purveyors, and the responsible parties address regional groundwater cleanup.

To support their efforts to identify potentially responsible parties, the U.S. EPA has implemented cooperative agreements with the Los Angeles Regional Water Board and funded research and investigative activities in the San Fernando Basin. The U.S. EPA provides funding to the Los Angeles Regional Water Board through a federal grant to support a full-time limited-term position. The Los Angeles Regional Water Board will be applying for additional grant funds totaling up to \$600,000 from the U.S. EPA to fund a full-time position for 24 months. The Los Angeles Regional Water Board is requesting the State Water Resources Control Board accept up to \$600,000 in grant funding from U.S. EPA for the continuation of the Los Angeles Regional Water Board's contaminant source investigation activities in the San Fernando Valley.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) authorize the State Water Board's Executive Director or designee to accept funds totaling up to \$600,000 from U.S. EPA to continue to fund the Los Angeles Regional Water Board staff to continue contaminant source investigation activities in the San Fernando Basin?

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes, there would be a fiscal impact. Specifically, the proposed cooperative agreement would augment the State Water Board's budget. The State Water Board's Fiscal Year 2018-19 through Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget has adequate expenditure authority to expend these funds.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes, the proposed cooperative agreement would impact the Los Angeles Regional Water Board. The proposed cooperative agreement and federal grant would allow the Los Angeles Regional Water Board to continue work on contaminant source investigation activities in the San Fernando Basin.

HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

The actions proposed under this item are consistent with the established policy of the State recognizing the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (human right to water; Water Code section 106.3). The proposed actions are also consistent with [Resolution No. 2016-0010](#), in which the State Water Board adopted the human right to water as a core value and top priority. This proposed action supports the human right to water by funding the Los Angeles Regional Water Board's efforts to identify sources of drinking water contamination and assist in restoring the San Fernando Basin as a source of drinking water.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to accept up to \$600,000 from U.S. EPA for Fiscal Year 2018-19 through Fiscal Year 2019-20 to continue contaminant source identification and other activities in the San Fernando Basin.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in implementing Priority 2 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to protect and restore groundwater quality. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 2.3 to ensure the viability of high quality groundwater basins.
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